

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03392 211413Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/028 W

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R 211255Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
FBI WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 8308

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3392

ATHENS FOR RTDO

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, SA, RO, GR
SUBJECT: TRADE COMPLAINT: \$1.6 MILLION CEMENT SHIPMENTS
MISSING

1. A REPRESENTATIVE OF ABDULAZIZ AL-ALI AL-WAZZAN SONS AND CO. (WTD 9/74) HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE A POSSIBLE TRADE FRAUD AMOUNTING TO NEARLY \$1.6 MILLION. AL-WAZZAN'S COMPLAINT IS AGAINST LIME INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, 509 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, YORK. THE REPRESENTATIVE PRODUCED DOCUMENTATION IN THE FORM OF PHOTO-COPIED CHECKS, INVOICES, CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN AND WEIGHT, AND SHIPPING PAPERS WHICH INDICATED THAT AL-WAZZAN PAID LIME INTERNATIONAL \$792,000 FOR 16.500 METRIC TONS OF CEMENT FROM VITROCIM, THE ROMANIAN STATE TRADING COMPANY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03392 211413Z

CEMENT WAS SUPPOSEDLY LOADED ON THE VESSEL MAGRIT B IN ROMANIA ON 21 MARCH 1977. AL-WAZZAN PAID LIME INTERNATIONAL ANOTH \$756.000 FOR 15,750 METRIC TONS OF CEMENT FROM VITROCIM, WHICH WAS LOADED ON THE VESSEL TROVATORE, A SHIP OF SUPPOSEDLY BRITISH REGISTRY, IN LATE FEBRUARY.

2. THE DOCUMENTS INDICATED FURTHER THAT LIME INTERNATIONAL,

THROUGH A SEEMINGLY RELATED FRIM WORLD TRADE SHIPPING CORPORATION (350 SYGROU AVENUE, ATHENS, GREECE), SUBMITTED PAPERS TO THE LETTER OF CREDIT ISSUING BANK (B.A.I.I. (MIDDLE EAST) INC., BAHRAIN) FROM VITROCIM WHICH ATTESTED TO THE WEIGHT OF THE CEMENT CARGO AND ITS LOADING ON AND SHIPMENT IN THE VESSEL MARGRIT B ON 21 MARCH 1977.

3. AL-WAZZAN SHOWED EMBOFF A REPORT FROM LLOYD'S INTEL-LIGENCE SERVICE WHICH STATED THAT THE MARGRIT B HAS BEEN IN JIDDA PORT FOR THE LAST TEN MONTHS (AND HENCE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON-LOADED WITH CEMENT IN ROMANIA ON MARCH 21, 1977). AL-WAZZAN REP THOUGHT THAT SUCH EVIDENCE MEANT LIME INTERNATIONAL SUBMITTED FORGED DOCUMENTS TO THE BANK.

4. AL-WAZZAN REP SAID LLOYD'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE REPORT INDICATED THE CEMENT CARGO ON THE MARGRIT B IN JIDDA WAS NOT DELIVERED TO AL-WAZZAN BUT WAS SOLD BY WORLD TIDE SHIPPING CORPORATION TO A SAUDI MERCHANT, IBRAHIM HAMZA SAIRAFI, FOR \$2.5 MILLION. MR. SAIRAFI IS STILL AWAITING DELIVERY OF 33,000 METRIC TONS OF CEMENT (ANOTHER \$2.5 MILLION CARGO) FROM WORLD TIDE SHIPPING CORPORATION. IN THE MEANTIME THE MARGRIT B, ACCORDING TO AL-WAZZAN, HAS BEEN SEIZED BY SAUDI ATHORITIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03392 211413Z

5. ANOTHER REPORT FROM LLOYD'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE INDICATES THAT THE VESSEL TROVATORE CANNOT BE FOUND. SINCE ITS DEPARTURE FROM CONSTANZA, THE SHIPS WHEREABOUTS CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

6. ROBERT TUCKER, PRESIDENT, LIME INTERNATIONAL, HAS NOT RESPONDED TO ANY TELEXES OR TELEHPONE CALLS FROM AL-WAZZAN AS OF 21 JUNE 1977. AT ALL HOURS OF THE WORKING DAY, THE RESPONSE IS THAT "MR. TUCKER IS OUT OF THE OFFICE; HE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL".

7. AL-WAZZAN NATURALLY FEARS THAT ITS MONEY HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH NOTHING RETURNED FOR VALUE. THE NON-DELIVERY OF THE CEMENT MEANS AS WELL THE LOSS OF IMPORTANT SALES OF THE SEPARATE CARGOES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF QATAR AND OF NORTH YEMEN.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR ATHENS AND USDOC--GEORGE HAWA OF AL-WAZZAN WILL BE TRAVELLING FIRST TO GREECE AND THEN PROBABLY TO THE US TO DETERMINE FROM WORLD TIDE SHIPPING AND LIME INTERNATIONAL THE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS. A JORDANIAN CITIZEN, HE WILL BE APPLYING FOR

NIV IN ATHENS SHOULD HE DECIDE IT NECESSARY TO GO THE
US. ATHENS AND USDOC REQUESTED TO RENDER HIM WHATEVER
ASSISTANCE IS DEEMED NECESSARY. FOR BUCHAREST: IF
POSSIBLE, PLEASE DETERMINE WHETHER VITOCIM DID ISSUE LOADING
DOCUMENTS FOR THE MARGRIT B ON MARCH 21, 1977. FOR USDOC:
PLEASE CONTACT MR. ROBERT TUCKER TO OBTAIN HIS SIDE OF STORY.

9. PLEASE ADVISE.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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